



STAR WARS
DARK EMPIRE II
6 OF 6

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STAR WARS

DARK EMPIRE II



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STAR WARS®

DARK EMPIRE II

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Hand of Darkness

As Lando Calrissian's *Viper* Automadon war droids attack the Emperor's citadel on Byss, they are met by an army of monstrous creatures bent on destruction.

The war droids are no match for the Emperor's dark-side monsters, and soon the Rebels are pinned down amidst the ruins of their attack.

But Salla Zend and Shug Ninx pull together a group of smugglers to come to the aid of the Rebels. Manning fast-armed freighters, the spacers hold the dark-side beasts at bay long enough for Lando's crew to scramble aboard.

Across the galaxy, Luke Skywalker, Kam Solusar, and the young Jedi Knights Jem and Rayf Ysanna head for the Alliance command base on the pinnacled fifth moon of Da Soocha.

As Luke's ship, the *Jedi Explorer*, emerges from hyperspace, a light-speed torpedo fired from the Emperor's new *Galaxy Weapon* emerges near them, heading straight for Pinnacle Base.

Guessing the projectile's purpose, Luke tries to shoot it down—but the torpedo's shields hold and it strikes the Rebel moon with a planet-shattering blast.

Elsewhere, the *Millenium Falcon*, repaired by antique Ganathan technology, arrives at a tiny settlement on exotic New Alderaan. There, Han and Leia's twin children, Jacen and Jaina, have been secreted since birth from the prying eyes of the Emperor. . .



HNWARROWW!

BETTER GET USED
TO HAVIN' YOUR **FUR**
PULLED, CHEWIE-- KIDS
LOVE BIG, HAIRY
UNCLES!

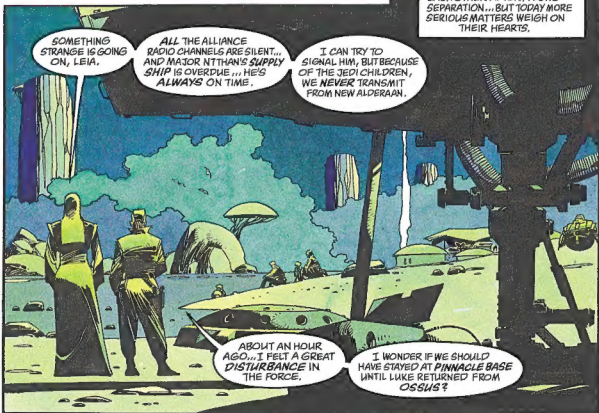
HAN SOLO AND CHEWBACCA ENJOY
A PEACEFUL AFTERNOON WITH HAN
AND LEIA'S TWIN CHILDREN, **JACEN**
AND **JAINA**, ON AN UNCHARTED
WORLD, CODE-NAMED **NEWALDERAAN**.

THE HUMBLE DWELLINGS OF THE
ISOLATED SETTLEMENT CONCEAL
A LARGE UNDERGROUND STORAGE
AND TECHNICAL COMPLEX
COMPLETE WITH HIGH-TECH
DEFENSE WEAPONRY.

IT IS A TIME OF RETREAT
FOR THE SOLOS, AS LEIA
AWAITS THE BIRTH OF
HER **THIRD** CHILD.

TOGETHER WITH HER
LIFELONG FRIEND
WINTER, LEIA STROLLS
THROUGH THE REBEL
VILLAGE.

IN OTHER TIMES, LEIA AND WINTER
WOULD BE OVERJOYED TO SEE
EACH OTHER AFTER A LONG
SEPARATION... BUT TODAY MORE
SERIOUS MATTERS WEIGH ON
THEIR HEARTS.



SOMETHING
STRANGE IS GOING
ON, LEIA.

ALL THE ALLIANCE
RADIO CHANNELS ARE SILENT...
AND MAJOR NTTHAN'S **SUPPLY**
SHIP IS OVERDUE ... HE'S
ALWAYS ON TIME.

I CAN TRY TO
SIGNAL HIM, BUT BECAUSE
OF THE JEDI CHILDREN,
WE NEVER TRANSMIT
FROM NEW ALDERAAN.

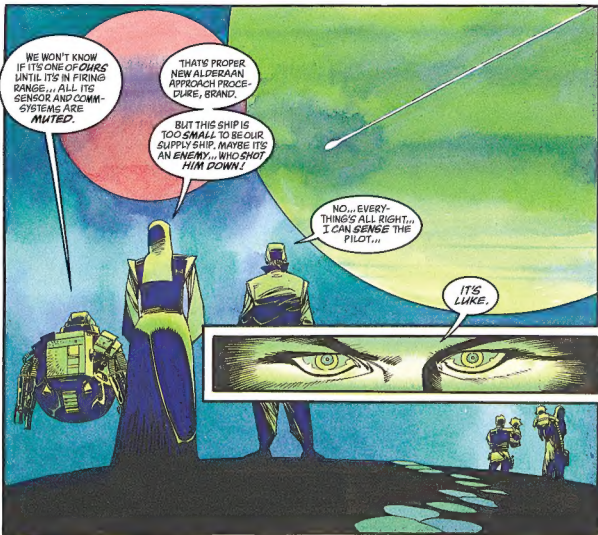
ABOUT AN HOUR
AGO... I FELT A GREAT
DISTURBANCE IN
THE FORCE.

I WONDER IF WE SHOULD
HAVE STAYED AT **PINNACLE BASE**
UNTIL LUKE RETURNED FROM
OSSUS?

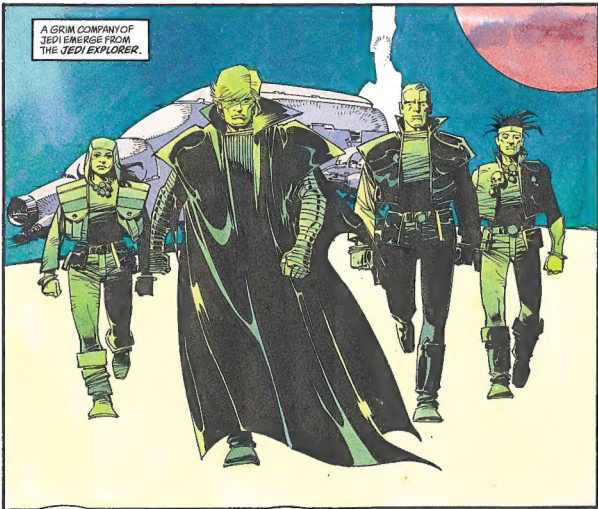


OOOH... SOMETHING'S UP, THAT'S FOR SURE.

HERE COMES YOUR FRIEND, BRAND. HE SEEMS TO BE IN A RUSH!



A GRIM COMPANY OF
JEDI EMERGE FROM
THE JEDI EXPLORER.



YOUR CHILDREN!
HEALTHY... AND
ALIVE!

WHAT'S GOING ON,
LUKE? SOMETHING
TERRIBLE HAS HAPPEN-
ED, HASN'T IT?

YOU GUYS LOOK
LIKE YOU'VE SEEN THE
GHOST OF THE EMPEROR
OR SOMETHIN'!



WE'VE JUST COME
FROM PINNACLE BASE.
THE MOON HAS BEEN
COMPLETELY
DESTROYED.

ALL THE
LEADERS OF
THE ALLIANCE
ARE DEAD.



BAST CASTLE, ON
THE PLANET VJUN.

ONCE LORD VADER'S PRIVATE
REFUGE, THE REMOTE FORTRESS
IS NOW THE HEADQUARTERS OF
THE EMPEROR'S ELITE WARRIORS--
HIS "DARK JEDI" AS HE CALLS THEM.

BAST CASTLE...THIS
IS IMPERIAL SHUTTLE TRIPINS
YOU ARE ORDERED TO MAKE
READY TO RECEIVE YOUR
EMPEROR!

DEEP IN THE DARK-SIDE STRONGHOLD,
AN ALIEN REBEL PILOT UNDERGOES
QUESTIONING BY KYAG GTHULL
AND HIS DARKSIDER COHORTS.

HE IS MAJOR NTTHAN, WHOSE
SUPPLY SHIP WAS CAPTURED IN AN
UNCHARTED REGION OF SPACE.

INCREASE THE
AMPLITUDE!

THIS REBEL WILL
TELL US THE EXACT
LOCATION OF THE BASE
HE IS SUPPLYING.

N-N-NEVER.
I'LL...NEVER...
TALK.

NYYYAAHHH!

THE INTERROGATION OF MAJOR NTTHAN
IS ENTERING ITS TWELFTH HOUR. EVEN
A PILOT TWICE AWARDED FOR EXCEP-
TIONAL BRAVERY CAN ONLY TAKE SO
MUCH...

EMPEROR PALPATINE HIMSELF HAS COME TO BAST CASTLE WITH HIS NEWLY EMPOWERED WARRIORS, XECR NIST AND TEDRYN-SHA, TO TAKE COMMAND OF HIS ELITE FORCE.

NIST... THERE'S A STATUE OF LORD VADER! THIS USED TO BE HIS CASTLE!

OTHULL! HAS THE PRISONER REVEALED THE WHEREABOUTS OF THE JEDI CHILDREN YET?

YES, EXCELLENCY!



THE REBEL HAS TOLD EVERYTHING. WE HAVE THE LOCATION OF A SAFEHOLD WORLD, CODE-NAMED NEW ALDERAAN.

THE REB'S AN HONEST MAN... THE TORTURE DROIDS SENSORS INDICATE THE SCUM TOLD US THE TRUTH.

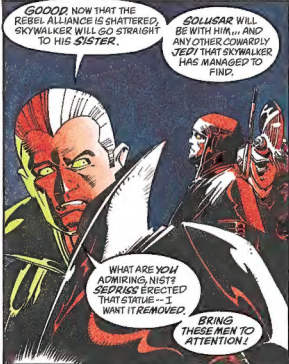


GOOD! NOW THAT THE REBEL ALLIANCE IS SHATTERED, SKYWALKER WILL GO STRAIGHT TO HIS SISTER.

SOLLISAR WILL BE WITH HIM... AND ANY OTHER COWARDLY JEDI THAT SKYWALKER HAS MANAGED TO FIND.

WHAT ARE YOU ADMIRING, NIST? SEPRIS Erected THAT STATUE -- I WANT IT REMOVED.

BRING THESE MEN TO ATTENTION!



AS MAJOR NTTHAN IS DRAGGED OFF TO HIS CELL, THE EMPEROR ANNOUNCES HIS NEXT MOVE.

I CAN OBLITERATE THEIR HIDDEN REFUGE WITH A SINGLE PROJECTILE FROM MY NEW GALAXY WEAPON... BUT HOW THEN WILL I OBTAIN THE JEDI CHILDREN?

NIST--ARE YOU READY TO ACCOMPLISH WHAT YOUR PREDECESSOR SEDRISS COULD NOT?

IT SHALL BE DONE, YOUR EXCELLENCE. WE SHALL BRING YOU THE CHILDREN...

...AND WE WILL CAPTURE SKYWALKER AND ALL HIS ACCOMPLICES.

BOOTS REVERBERATE ON ANCIENT STONE AS THE SEVEN DARKSIDERS LOSE NO TIME IN MOUNTING THEIR GLEAMING HOWLRUNNER ATTACK SHIPS.

EMPEROR PALPATINE FEELS A DEEP AND ABIDING SATISFACTION AS THESE WARRIORS, EACH A LIVING EXTENSION OF HIS POWER, TAKE TO THE SKIES.

BY THE DARKNESS THAT I AM, THE TIME I HAVE LONGED FOR HAS FINALLY COME.

THE END OF THE JEDI KNIGHTS... I CAN TASTE IT!

THERE WILL BE NO ONE LEFT TO OPPOSE MY WILL!

NEW ALDERAAN.

THE JEDI ARE STILL IN SHOCK
OVER THE DEATHS OF THE
ALLIANCE LEADERS... BUT THE
TRAINING OF THE NEXT
GENERATION MUST GO
FORWARD--!

RAYF... JEM...
MASTER YODA
TAUGHT ME THIS
SKILL, MANY
YEARS AGO.

ARE YOU READY
TO FINISH LIFTING THAT
HEAVYSTONE
WITHOUT ME?

ALL RIGHT,
BRAND... IT WEIGHS
A LOT... BUT WE'VE
GOT IT!

KROVA
MARAO!

AS THE TWO YOUNG JEDI
CONCENTRATE, THE HUGE
STONE SETTLES INTO
PLACE ATOP ANOTHER
BOULDER.

AND NOW YOU
KNOW, THE SIZE
AND WEIGHT OF
AN OBJECT DOESN'T
MATTER TO THE
FORCE!

YES... EVEN
VIMA CAN LIFT
THE STONE!
AGE MATTERS
NOT!

RAYF AND JEM
ARE REALLY GOOD
...VERY OPEN TO
THE FORCE.

I REMEMBER
YODA TOLD ME, "ALWAYS
WITH YOU IT CAN'T
BE DONE..."

WITH JEM
AND RAYF, ALWAYS
IT CAN BE DONE!

T'FOON PIUNAB!
IT WAS EASY! WE
USED TO DO THIS WITH
SMALLER ROCKS ON
OSSUS!

LATER, THE JEDI MEET IN A SUB-SURFACE BRIEFING ROOM, WHERE A SCANNER PROJECTS HOLO-IMAGES EMBOSSED INTO AN ANCIENT JEDI BOOK.

JEM AND I FOUND THIS BOOK IN THE JEDI LIBRARY ON OSSUS...

IT CAN TEACH US ABOUT **BATTLE MEDITATION**... A SKILL THAT WAS USED BY THE JEDI IN ANCIENT TIMES.

WHAT DID THEY DO -- STOP FIGHTING AND GET ALL **DREAMY** WHEN THE COMBAT GOT TOO FIERCE?

HAN...! BATTLE MEDITATION WAS A GREAT JEDI POWER!

WE EACH NEED TO LEARN ALL THE ANCIENT JEDI SKILLS.

WITHOUT THE ALLIANCE LEADERS, OUR WORK WILL BE **TWICE** AS DIFFICULT.

WE'VE GOT TO CONTACT **LANDO** AND **WEDGE** AND TELL THEM TO REGROUP WITH US... IF THEY'RE STILL ALIVE!

I WANT TO SIGNAL THEM **RIGHT AWAY**... EVEN IF IT MEANS BETRAYING THE LOCATION OF THIS BASE TO THE EMPIRE!

LISTEN, THERE'S NO POINT IN TAKIN' A CHANCE THE EMPIRE'S **SCANNERS** WILL PICK UP A SIGNAL FROM NEW ALDERAAN.

CHEWIE AND I WILL HEAD FOR **DEEP SPACE**, SEND A MESSAGE TO **LANDO'S** WAR DROID TEAM --

WHUARRN HNWARRN!

THAT'S RIGHT, CHEWIE. I DON'T LIKE THE **FALCON'S** MODIFICATIONS EITHER... BUT SHE'LL STILL FLY.

AS EVENING COMES TO NEW ALDERAAN, HAN SOLO AND CHENWBACCA DEPART FOR SPACE TO ESTABLISH COMMUNICATIONS WITH THE BYSS COMMANDO MISSION.

LUKE AND JEM YSANNA FIND A MOMENT TO THEMSELVES.

MORE AND MORE LUKE FEELS DRAWN TO JEM-- HER YOUTHFUL OPTIMISM LIFTS HIS SPIRITS FROM THE IMMENSE BURDENS OF A JEDI MASTER.

HAN'S LUCKY... HE'S GOT A FAMILY.

I'VE BEEN FIGHTING THE EMPIRE HALF MY LIFE... I'VE HAD NO TIME FOR ORDINARY... FRIENDSHIPS.

HAN AND LEIA ARE REBELS TOO... THAT DIDN'T STOP THEM FROM FINDING EACH OTHER

THAT'S... TRUE.

I HAVE TO ADMIT... YOU'RE VERY SPECIAL TO ME, JEM.

WHAT BEGAN ON OSSUS HAS GROWN STRONGER WITH EACH PASSING MOMENT.

THEIR HEARTS BRIGHT WITH WAVES OF UNEXPECTED HAPPINESS, THE TWO JEDI BECOME OBVIOUS TO EVERYTHING AROUND THEM...

...AS SILENT, SWIFT SHADOWS MOVE TOWARD THEM ACROSS THE GLEAMING LAKE!

AS THE HOUR GROWS LATE, LUKE AND JEM RETURN TO THEIR SEPARATE QUARTERS

THANKS, CE-3K. I'M REALLY EXHAUSTED FROM THE TRIP. I'VE GOT A LOT TO THINK ABOUT.

THIS NEW HAND THE EMPEROR GAVE ME HASN'T WORKED RIGHT SINCE I LEFT BYSS... I'LL HAVE TO ADJUST IT IN THE MORNING

VERY GOOD, MASTER LUKE. I'LL HAVE YOUR TOOLS READY WHEN YOU AWAKEN.

HIS JEDI SENSES DULLED BY FATIGUE, LUKE DRIFTS INTO UNEASY SLEEP. FEELINGS OF DREAD GNAW AT THE EDGES OF HIS AWARENESS. HE CAN DIMLY SENSE DARK SHAPES MOVING IN THE FORCE.

LUKE HAS BEEN CAUGHT UP IN THE GALACTIC STRUGGLE FOR HALF A LIFETIME... A WAR OF BLOODSHED AND FIERCE WEAPONRY... A WAR FOR HIS MIND, HIS HEART... AND HIS SPIRIT.

IN THE YEARS SINCE THE DEATH OF HIS FATHER, MANY OF LUKE'S NIGHTS HAVE BEEN HAUNTED WITH VISIONS OF THE CONFLICTS OF THE PAST...

THIS NIGHT ON THE PEACEFUL SANCTUARY WORLD IS NO EXCEPTION.

BUT THE EMPEROR HAS LEARNED THE LOCATION OF NEW ALDERAAN... AND A CLANDESTINE ATTACK OF SCARAB DROIDS IS ABOUT TO TURN SLEEP INTO DEATH!

AS THE POISON-BEARING DROIDS FIND THEIR QUARRY, THEIR LITTLE SENSORS HUM AND CLICK, SEEKING A PLACE TO BEGIN THEIR EVIL WORK.

AT THAT MOMENT, LUKE'S AGITATED DREAMS ERUPT INTO NIGHTMARE!

THE DARKSIDE HAS ALREADY WON, YOUNG SKYWALKER.

WHY DELUDE YOURSELF... YOU KNOW YOU BELONG TO ME.

FATHER... SON... ARE NOT TWO...

"THEY ARE ONE!"

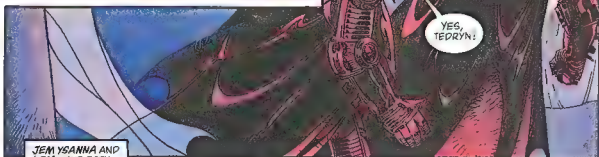
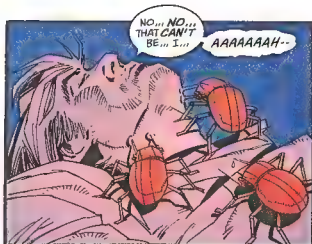
NOOOOO! THAT'S NOT TRUE! I'M NOT VADER!

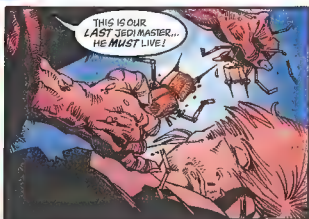
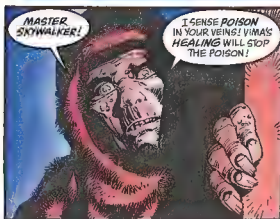
THIS IS ONLY A DREAM... CREATED BY YOUR DARK-SIDE MAGIC!

YOU'RE ALIVE AGAIN, AREN'T YOU...? SEDRISS TOLD ME...

BUT SEDRISS IS GONE, PALPATINE. THE JEDI KNIGHTS ARE GOING TO OVERCOME ALL YOUR EVIL PLANS!

ON THE CONTRARY, MY FRIEND. IT IS I WHO HAVE WON... AS YOU ARE ABOUT TO LEARN!



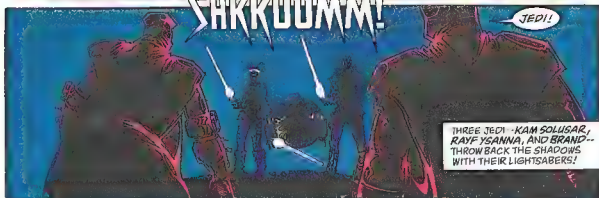




EXECUTOR NIST!
I'VE LOST CONTACT WITH
SHA AND MORDI-- THEIR
LIFE FORCE HAS VANISHED.
THE FOOLS HAVE FAILED
US.

THE CHILDREN ARE IN
THIS BUILDING, GTHULL.
TAKE THEM QUICKLY. THEN
WE WILL DESTROY THE
SETTLEMENT.

SHRRUUMM!



JEDI!

THREE JEDI--KAM SOLUSAR,
RAYF YSANNA, AND BRAND--
THROW BACK THE SHADOWS
WITH THEIR LIGHTSABERS!



WITHOUT HESITATION, THE DARK
JEDI IGNITE THEIR OWN LIGHT-
SABERS, AND A FURIOUS BATTLE
ENSUES!

ARE YOU READY
TO TEST YOUR NEW
SKILLS, RAYF?

I'M READY,
KAM--LET'S
GET 'EM!



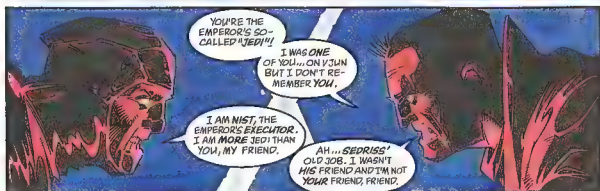
HEY! WATCH
WHERE YOU SWING
THAT THING, RAYF!
YOU ALMOST TOOK
OFF MY HEAD!

SHR-ZZMM!



USING MULTIPLE PROSTHETIC FIGHTING ARMS, ONE WITH A BUILT-IN LIGHTSABER, EMPATOJAYOS BRAND IS ABLE TO DOMINATE SEVERAL ADVERSARIES AT ONCE!

FOR KAM SOLUSAR, THIS IS A MOMENT OF SWEET JUSTICE!

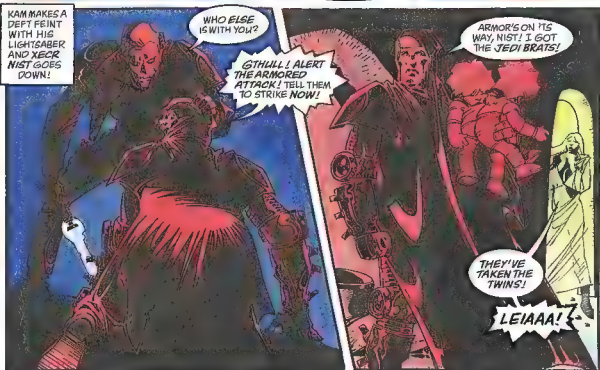


YOU'RE THE EMPEROR'S SO-CALLED "JEDI"!

I WAS ONE OF YOU... ON YJUN BUT I DON'T REMEMBER YOU.

I AM NIST, THE EMPEROR'S EXECUTOR. I AM MORE JEDI THAN YOU, MY FRIEND.

AH... 'SEDRISS' OLD JOB. I WASN'T HIS FRIEND AND I'M NOT YOUR FRIEND, FRIEND.



KAM MAKES A DEFT FEINT WITH HIS LIGHTSABER AND XECR NIST GOES DOWN!

WHO ELSE IS WITH YOU?

GTHULL! ALERT THE ARMORED ATTACK! TELL THEM TO STRIKE NOW!

ARMOR'S ON ITS WAY, NIST! I GOT THE JEDI BRATS!

THEY'VE TAKEN THE TWINS!

LEIAAAA!



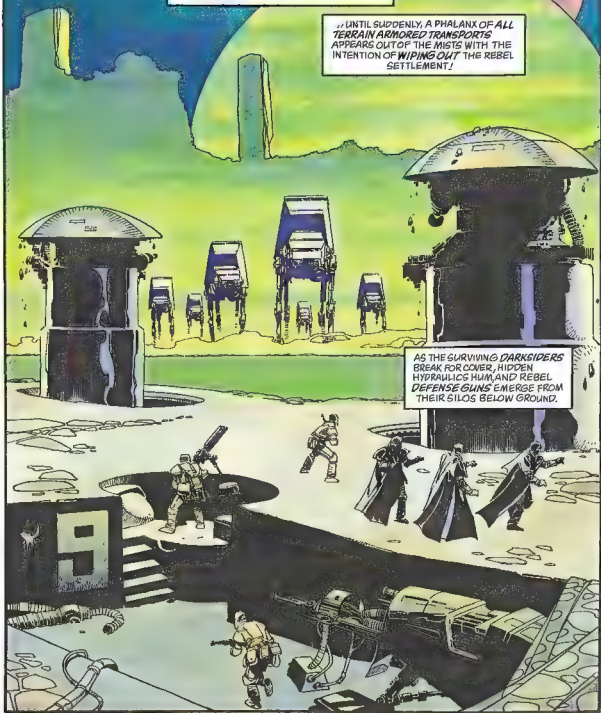
WAR HAS NEVER BEEN KIND TO THE JEDI. OVER THE CENTURIES, MANY WERE JUST BEGINNING THE JEDI WAY WHEN THEIR SPIRITS PASSED INTO THE LIGHT.

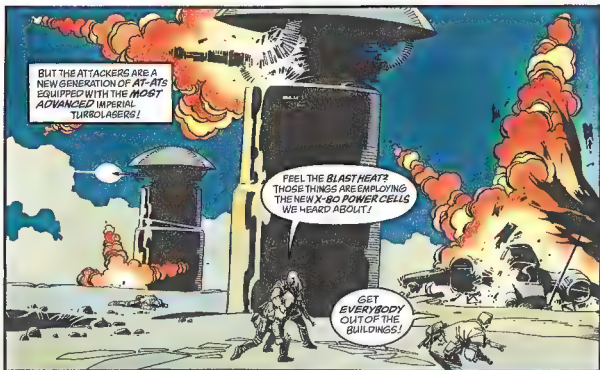
THE ALLIANCE HAS BEEN SMASHED, LUKE SKYWALKER HAS BEEN FELLED, AND ANOTHER JEDI HAS PASSED ON.

IT IS A MOMENT OF PROFOUND LOSS ... AND GREAT DANGER. THE REBELS FEEL FORTUNATE TO HAVE GAINED THE UPPER HAND IN THE ENGAGEMENT AT NEW ALDERAAN ...

... UNTIL SUDDENLY, A PHALANX OF ALL TERRAIN ARMORED TRANSPORTS APPEARS OUT OF THE MISTS WITH THE INTENTION OF WIPING OUT THE REBEL SETTLEMENT!

AS THE SURVIVING DARKSIDERS BREAK FOR COVER, HIDDEN HYDRAULICS HUM, AND REBEL DEFENSE GUNS EMERGE FROM THEIR SILOS BELOW GROUND.





BUT THE ATTACKERS ARE A NEW GENERATION OF AT-ATS EQUIPPED WITH THE **MOST ADVANCED** IMPERIAL TURBOLASERS!

FEEL THE **BLAST HEAT**? THOSE THINGS ARE EMPLOYING THE NEW **X-80 POWER CELLS** WE HEARD ABOUT!

GET **EVERYBODY** OUT OF THE BUILDINGS!



LUKE! THEY'VE GOT ALL OUR SHIPS... WE'RE EVACUATING TO THE **CAVES** IN THE HILLS!

C'MON, WE'RE GETTING YOU **OUT** OF HERE!

THEY MASKED THEIR THOUGHTS... I NEVER SENSED THEIR APPROACH!



I LET MY GUARD DOWN... NOW THE EMPEROR HAS LASHED OUT--HE INTENDS TO **FINISH** US.



WITH **RELENTLESS FIREPOWER**, THE IMPERIAL JUGGERNAUT **ANNIHILATES** THE SETTLEMENT!

C'MON, I'LL **CARRY** YA, OLD WOMAN!

PUT **VIMA** DOWN! VIMA **STRONG** WITH THE FORCE!

THINGS HAVE NEVER LOOKED MORE **HOPELESS** FOR THE REBELLION... AND THE JEDI!

FORTUNATELY, THE JEDI
HAVE FRIENDS IN HIGH
PLACES!

HNNRRARN!

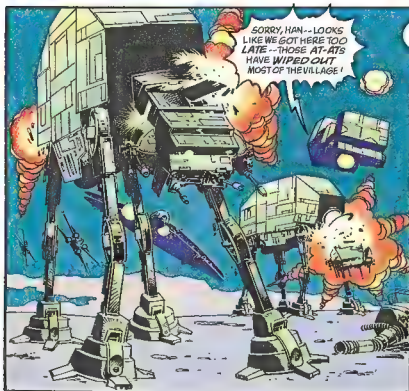
GREAT!
WALKERS ARE
TAKIN' APART
THE VILLAGE!

AND MY
KIDS ARE DOWN
THERE!

THIS IS GENERAL
CALRISSIAN...CHECK
YOUR COMM-SCREENS...
I'M TRANSMITTING
MARKERS ASSIGNING
EACH SHIP A
TARGET!

TARGET
LOCKED IN,
LANDO!

HAN AND CHEWBACCA HAVE EVADED
IMPERIAL SURVEILLANCE SCANS TO CONTACT
LANDO'S TEAM ABOARD THE THREE SMUGGLER
SHIPS--AND LANDO ALERTED AN X-WING
FLIGHT GROUP BASED IN A NEARBY SYSTEM!



SORRY, HAN-- LOOKS
LIKE WE GOT HERE TOO
LATE--THOSE AT-ATS
HAVE WIPED OUT
MOST OF THE VILLAGE!

WE'LL PICK UP
THE SURVIVORS...
IF THERE ARE ANY!

HEY, CHECK IT! I
JUST BLEW THE HEAD OFF
ONE OF THOSE STUPID
WALKERS!

OH, DEAR-- I SEE
PRINCESS LEIA RUNNING
WITH HER CHILDREN...THE
IMPERIAL WALKERS WILL
KILL THEM!

THE MILLENNIUM FALCON'S GANATHAN LIGHTNING GUN WORKS FLAWLESSLY!

THIS IS FOR SHOOTING AT MY WIFE AND KIDS...

...AND THIS IS FOR RUINING MY VACATION!

GET DOWN THERE AND LOAD UP THE VILLAGERS, SALLA!

STARHOOK TEN TOUCHES DOWN AMIDST THE RUINED SETTLEMENT AND THROWS OPEN HER BIG CARGO BAY.

C'MON, VIMA, I GOT YOU!

WE'RE READY, HAN! LET'S BOUNCE OFF THIS ORB BEFORE THE IMPERIAL NAVY SHOWS UP!

EVERYBODY ON BOARD, SALLA?

THIS IS LANDO--SHIELDS UP! WE'VE GOT FIRE FROM THE REAR!

EVERYBODY PUNCH IN THE COORDINATES TO SAVE YOU!

NNHHUARRN!

THE SURVIVING DARK JEDI GIVE CHASE IN THEIR HOWL RUNNERS...

... BUT THE REBELS HAVE TIME ENOUGH TO MAKE THE JUMP TO HYPERSPACE...

...TO THE DISTANT **AURIL SYSTEMS**
...AND A DERELICT CITY IN SPACE.



I... **KNOW** THIS
PLACE... THE OLD
NESPIS SPACE-
PORT.

YEAH... WHERE
YOU AND I HAD OUR
FATEFUL MEETING.

BUT WHY DID
LANDO BRING
US HERE?

ARE YOU
OKAY, LEIA?

I'M... I FEEL MY TIME
IS NEAR... WE NEED TO
LAND... **SOON**.

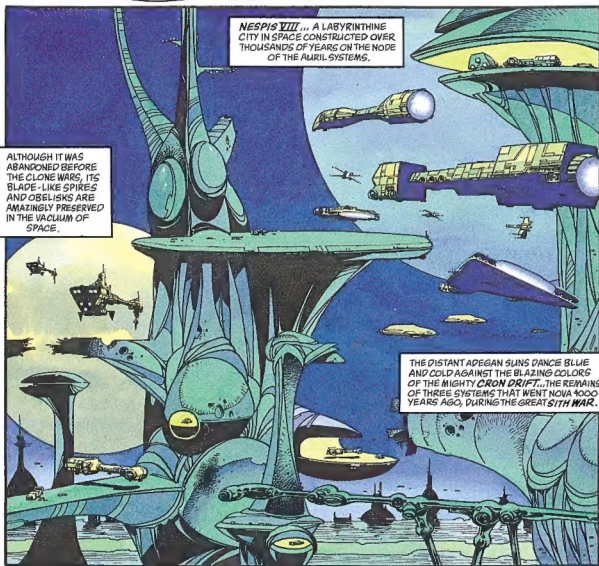
PRINCESS LEIA...
OH, DEAR... I DON'T
KNOW **HOW** YOU
HUMANS MANAGE.
IT'S SO MUCH EASIER
TO CREATE A DROID!



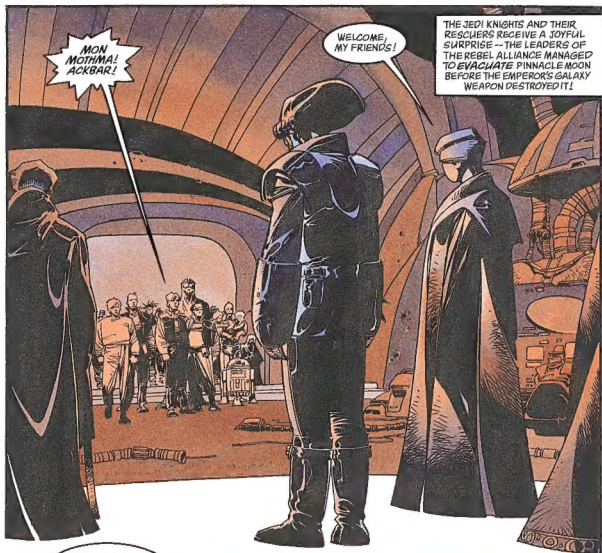
BRRT-BEEP-
BOEET?

NESPIS VIII... A LABYRINTHINE
CITY IN SPACE CONSTRUCTED OVER
THOUSANDS OF YEARS ON THE NODE
OF THE **AURIL SYSTEMS**.

ALTHOUGH IT WAS
ABANDONED BEFORE
THE CLONE WARS, ITS
BLADE-LIKE SPIRES
AND OBELISKS ARE
AMAZINGLY PRESERVED
IN THE VACUUM OF
SPACE.



THE DISTANT **ADEGAN SUNS** DANCE BLUE
AND COLD AGAINST THE BLAZING COLORS
OF THE MIGHTY **CRON DRIFT**... THE REMAINS
OF THREE SYSTEMS THAT WENT NOVA 1000
YEARS AGO, DURING THE GREAT **SITH WAR**.



MON
MOTHTMA!
ACKBAR!

WELCOME,
MY FRIENDS!

THE JEDI KNIGHTS AND THEIR
RESCUERS RECEIVE A JOYFUL
SURPRISE--THE LEADERS OF
THE REBEL ALLIANCE MANAGED
TO EVACUATE PINNACLE MOON
BEFORE THE EMPEROR'S GALAXY
WEAPON DESTROYED IT!



WE'VE SURVIVED...
BUT THE ALLIANCE HAS
BEEN FRAGMENTED AND
DRIVEN INTO HIDING.

IT IS A BAD
TIME FOR US... BUT
AT LEAST WE ARE
TOGETHER.

LEIA...
ARE YOU...



YES, MON MOTHTMA...
WE GOT HERE... JUST
IN TIME.

I ALERTED
THE DOCTORS,
DEAR--EVERYTHING'S
READY.

GOOD... PLEASE
DON'T LET THEM START
WITHOUT ME!

AS LEIA GOES INTO LABOR, THE OTHER JEDI WAIT FOR NEWS OF A NEW JEDI CHILD.

THIS IS THE VERY ROOM WHERE KAM AND I MET... THESE **MURALS** WERE CONSTRUCTED CENTURIES AGO...

THEY DEPICT THE EXPLOITS OF THE JEDI IN THE **SITH WAR**.

THE JEDI HAVE BEEN STRUGGLING WITH THE DARK SIDE FOR AEONS...

SO MANY HAVE DIED. AND NOW WE HAVE LOST ANOTHER... I WISH I COULD HAVE SAVED HER, RAYF.

DON'T BLAME YOURSELF. YOU'VE DONE GREAT THINGS, LUKE... THE JEDI ARE RISING AGAIN, THANKS TO YOU.

THAT'S TRUE, RAYF, BUT ONCE AGAIN, **TECHNOLOGY** HAS GOT US BEAT-- THE EMPEROR'S NEW **GALAXY GUN** IS VIRTUALLY INVINCIBLE!

LISTEN... WE HAVE EVERY REASON TO BE OPTIMISTIC.

GIVE IN TO THE **DESPAIR** AND YOU GIVE IN TO THE **DARK SIDE!**

BRAND IS RIGHT-- IF WE STAY WITH THE **LIGHT**, WE'LL PULL TOGETHER...

...AND THE JEDI WILL GO ON FOREVER!

I GUESS I'VE SEEN TOO MUCH **DARKNESS**...

WE'VE MADE ONLY A SMALL BEGINNING... THERE'S SO MUCH TO DO.

HEY-- I'M A FATHER AGAIN! IT'S A BOY!

